

Christian Education is at 10:00am. Ask an usher or greeter for details.



For children 6 years and under, we have a play area along the back wall to your left as you enter the sanctuary. Please sit close to supervise children you bring. Clipboards with activities are available for children of all ages.

To access our livestreamed service use this link:

<https://youtube.com/@PEASE507> or go to www.mcob.org, bottom left of page where you will click on YouTube; toward the top click on "Live." It doesn't go live until the loft activates it, so if it isn't there immediately, leave the page and try again. You can also access copies of the bulletin and links to past services on our website: www.mcob.org. And **find us on Facebook** at Middlebury Church of the Brethren.

Our Mission Statement

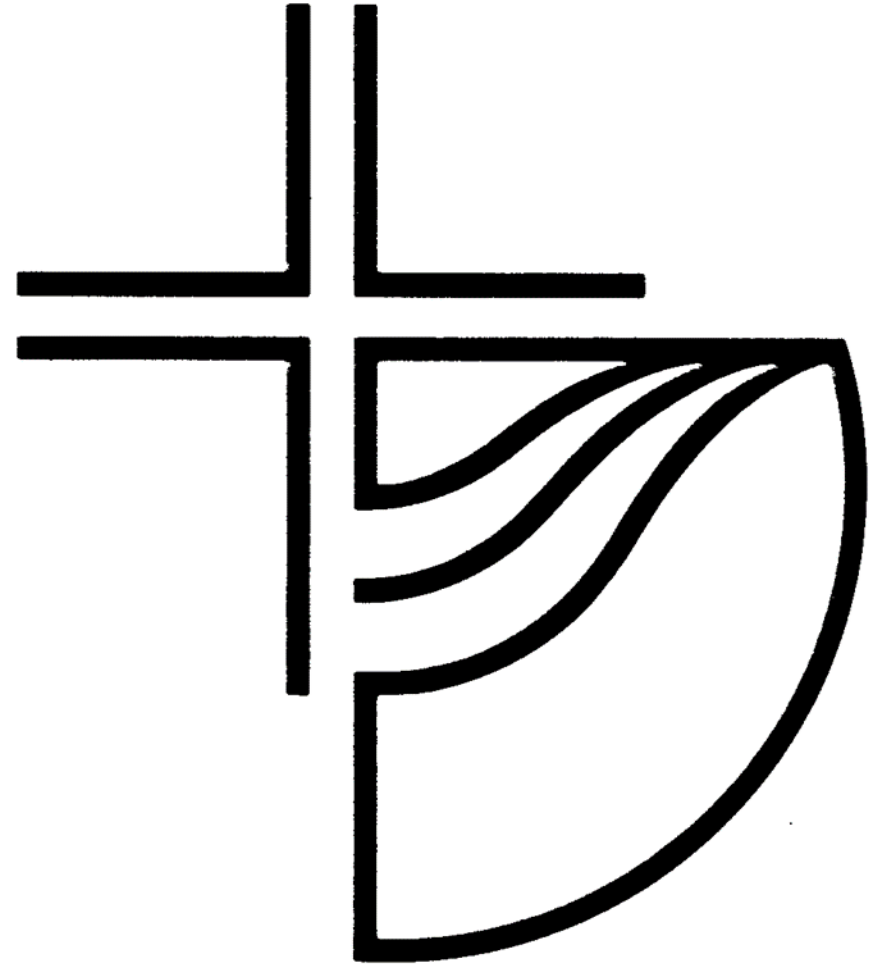
Believe God's Word. Live Christ's teaching.
Grow spiritually and share God's love, peace, hope and joy.

Middlebury Church of the Brethren

**507 Bristol Ave.
Middlebury, IN 46540
574-825-2955
mcob@mcob.org**

The Church of the Brethren symbol on the cover upholds images of life in Jesus Christ. The cross recalls our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:4) and testifies to God's plan to bring "all in heaven and earth . . . into a unity in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10 NEB). The circle, partially defined, represents the world into which we are sent by Christ (Matthew 28:19). The circle also affirms that as members of Christ's body we are members one of another (Romans 12:5)—a people who confess "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). The wave connotes new life in Christ, "born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5). The wave further evokes the waters of justice (Amos 5:24), the cup of water offered in Christ's name (Mark 9:41), the basin and towel (John 13:5), and "springs of living water" (Revelation 7:17). Images central to life in Jesus Christ thus are lifted up as images for Brethren to live by.

Middlebury Church of the Brethren



April 28, 2024

MIDDLEBURY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
a welcoming and inclusive congregation
offering Christ's hospitality to the world

Sunday School-9:30 Fellowship-10:30am Worship-11:00am

April 28, 2024

Jesus is the true vine, to which we are attached as branches. We want to be sure not to be cut off from the vine. Our very lives depend on connectedness. At the same time, there is pruning taking place. Our *unhelpful and unhealthy branches are cut back. So...cut back, but not cut off; growing but not overgrown; pruned for a purpose; always abiding. The focus isn't preservation; it's fruitfulness!*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer (unison)

Gardener God,
You have planted and protected us by your faithful hand.
Send us the sap of your grace from Christ, the true Vine,
and make us blossom and bear the fruit of love
as a sign of your life in us.
Let the sweet fragrance of the shoots you have planted
give you praise forever. Amen.

***Hymn of Gathering** **Sweet hour of prayer** #11

Offering Invitation and Prayer

An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary for your gifts.

The Community Prays Together

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

One: In your mercy Lord

Many: Hear our prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn of Prayer **Thou true Vine, that heals** #373

Scripture Reading **John 15:1-8** N.T. p.109

Message What leads to fruitfulness?

Moments of Silent Reflection

***Hymn of Witness** **Renew your church** #363

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

The Opening Prayer is by the Mennonite Worship and Song Committee from *"Voices Together."*

If you are new or visiting, please fill out a visitor card available in the entryway. You are most welcome here!

Preacher – Kurt Borgmann
Worship Leader – Julie Bontrager
Pianist – Lorie Copeland
Flautist – Sherry Bickel
Guitarist – Jill Weaver
Ushers – Bethany Rudd & Beth Sholly
Greeters – Don & Beth Muhlnickel
Sound Tech – Mark Roebuck, William Coffey, Matt Weaver

Office Hours

Pastor Kurt:

Wednesday & Friday, 9am-noon

Treasurer / Daycare Business Manager Lorie:

Monday thru Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm

Office Manager Colleen:

Wednesday & Friday, 9am-3pm

Thursday, 10am-2pm

Bulletins are printed on Friday and cannot be adjusted after that. Please know that emails and voicemails that come into the office Sat.–Tue. will not be seen until Wed.

Happening this Week

- Sewing / Craft Group: Wed., 1pm in room across from kitchen
- Early Voting: Sat., 9am-4pm in fellowship hall

Upcoming in Worship

May 5: John 15:9-17 “Remain in my love”

Sunday School Schedule Upcoming

March through May: “The Wired Word,” taught by Don Anderson

Announcements

Help fund our **Congregational Aid Plan (CAP)** to provide scholarships for our college students. Use an envelope from the back table, or mark it on your regular giving envelope.

“**Journeys with Jesus**” is the theme for **Women’s Camp** to be held **at Camp Mack May 30 – June 1, 2024. May 3 is the registration deadline.** Speakers include Kristi Mitchell, Valarie Kline, Melissa Gill, Jodi Johnston and Laura Stone. More information is posted across from the mailboxes, and registration forms are on the Welcome Desk.

Small “Get-acquainted” Groups at Borgmanns’

Kurt and Loyce have been hosting small “get-acquainted” groups at their home. Two have already met, and there is one more coming up on Wednesday, May 1, 7-9pm, with some space still available if you would like to come. The sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall. If you missed the opportunity this time around but would still like a chance to participate, please contact the church office, and we will plan to set up additional group times in June.

The Borgmanns’ address is 13126 Bear Creek Court, Middlebury. Anyone coming who has mobility issues or other physical limitations should plan to park at the top of the driveway on the flat area.